IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

WEDNESDAY, THE SEVENTH DAY OF OCTOBER TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 15063 OF 2026

Between:

Ponnala Siddarth, S/o. Sai Kumar, Age. 27 years, Occ. Govt employee R/o Plot 60, Telecom Colony, Tirumalagiri, Secunderabad

...PETITIONER/ACCUSED No.1

AND

The State of Telangana, Rep by Its Public Prosecutor, High Court, Hyderabad

...RESPONDENT

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to allow this Criminal Petition by quashing the order dated 10-07-2026 in Crl.M.P.No.222 of 2026 in Crime Number No.149 of 20206 of PS.Mokila on the file of 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District At. L.B.Nagar and to grant interim custody of the Maruti Suzuki Ciaz car bearing No.TS-10EY-9191.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Sri G Santosh Reddy, Advocate for the Petitioner and Sri Jithender Rao Veeramalla, Additional Public Prosecutor on behalf of Respondent.

The Court made the following: ORDER

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J.SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION No.15063 of 2026

CNR NO HBHC010612072026

Date: 07.10.2026

Between:

Ponnala Siddarth

...Petitioner/accused No.1

AND

The State of Telangana

...Respondent.

ORDER

This Criminal Petition has been filed to set aside the impugned order passed by the learned I Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District at L.B.Nagar in Crl.M.P.No.222 of 2026 dated 10.07.2026 and to direct the concerned authorities to release the vehicle of the petitioner, namely, Maruthi Suzuki Ciaz Car, bearing Registration No.TS-10-EY-9191, which was seized in Crime No.149 of 2026, of Mokila Police Station, Future City Police Commisionerate.

2. Heard Mr. G. Santosh Reddy, learned counsel for the petitioner and Mr.Jithendar Rao Veeramalla, learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondent.

3. With the consent of both the learned counsel, the criminal petition is disposed of at the admission stage.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner is the owner of a vehicle, namely, Maruthi Suzuki Ciaz Car, bearing Registration No. TS-10-EY-9191, which was seized by the Police, Mokila Station, Future City Police Commissionerate, in Crime No.149 of 2026 for the offences punishable under Sections 8(c) r/w. 22(b), 20(b)(ii)(A) and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (for short, 'NDPS Act'). He further submitted that the petitioner was never involved in the transportation of the alleged contraband in the subject vehicle but the police illegally registered the case against the accused No.1 and thereby seized the vehicle of the petitioner.

4.1. He further submitted that the since the petitioner is a State Level and National level Tennis player and is presently working as a Superintendent in the Railway Department. It is further submitted that he purchased the said vehicle out of his hard-earned money and that the vehicle is required for his day-to-day use. He uses the said vehicle for attending his Tennis Practice and going to his office and also keeps his sports kit and relevant materials therein. The said vehicle is under the custody of Mokila P.S. since 29.03.2026. Unless the said vehicle is released, the petitioner will be put to great hardship. He further submitted

that the petitioner had approached the learned I Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District at L.B.Nagar by filing an application *vide* Crl.M.P.No.222 of 2026 in Crime No.149 of 2026, seeking interim custody of the subject vehicle, and the said Court had dismissed the petition *vide* its order dated 10.07.2026, on the ground that the petitioner has to approach the Drug Disposal Committee and that the said Court is not having jurisdiction. Though the learned trial Court is having jurisdiction, the learned trial Court, without deciding the application on merits, returned the same, and the same is contrary to the principle laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Denash v. State of Tamil Nadu*** [1].

5. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor has not disputed the submissions made by the learned counsel for the petitioner.

6. Having considered the rival submissions made by the respective parties and upon perusal of the record, it reveals that, even according to the parties, the petitioner is the owner of the vehicle bearing Registration No. TS-10-EY-9191, and the said vehicle was seized in respect of Crime No.149 of 2026 on the alleged ground that the Police seized the contraband from the said vehicle. It reveals from the record that the petitioner had approached the learned trial Court and filed an application

[1] 2025 LawSuit (SC) 1411

seeking interim custody of the vehicle, and the learned trial Court dismissed the application on the ground that the petitioner ought to have approached the Drug Disposal Committee.

7. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in Denash's case (supra), held that the Special Courts under the NDPS Act retain the jurisdiction to grant interim custody of the seized vehicle, which was involved under the provisions of the NDPS Act. The learned trial Court, without following the principle laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court (supra), mechanically dismissed the application. Hence, this Court is of the considered view that the learned trial Court ought to have considered the said application filed by the petitioner and decided the matter in accordance with law.

8. Taking into consideration the peculiar facts and also the principle laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the petitioner's vehicle has been under the custody of Mokila P.S. since 29.03.2026, and this Court is inclined to grant interim custody of the vehicle, namely, Maruthi Suzuki Ciaz Car, bearing Registration No. TS-10-EY-9191, in favour of the petitioner on his executing a personal bond for a sum of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only) with two sureties to the satisfaction of the learned I Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District at L.B.Nagar. The petitioner shall also furnish an undertaking that he shall not alienate the said vehicle or change its physical features. The Sub-

Inspector of Police, Mokila Police Station, Future City Polce Commissionerate shall write to the RTA Authority not to transfer the said vehicle in favour of any third party without clearance from the Court. It is needless to state that the petitioner shall produce the said vehicle before the Investigating Officer or before the concerned Court whenever required.

9. Accordingly, the criminal petition is disposed of.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/- MOHD. ISMAIL,
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District at L B.Nagar
2. The Judicial First Class Magistrate At Chevella
3. The Station House Officer, Mokila Police Station, Future City
4. One CC to SRI. G SANTOSH REDDY, Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CCs to PUBLIC PROSECUTOR High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
6. Two CD Copies

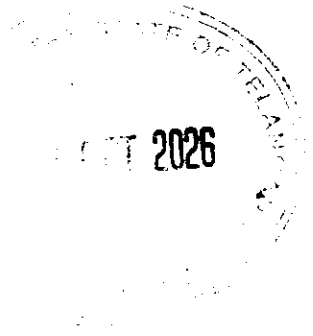
ADK

HIGH COURT

DATED: 07/10/2026

ORDER

CRLP.No.15063 of 2026



DISPOSING OF THE CRLP

(9)

12/10/26